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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JULY 23rd, 1915.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

PER ANNUM: 3/6 IN ADVANCE.



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National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the Improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and the prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of a small fee.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Waikato Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., W. Hooper Teed, Waihou, Thames Valley.

Taranaki Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., H. W. Warcup, Hawera.

Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., Miss Mackay, Middle Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch.

Pahiatua Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., G. Bentley, Pahiatua.

Southland Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., L. Gardiner, 119 Elles Road, Invercargill.

South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., R. Lang, Geraldine.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

President: Mr. J. S. Cotterell, Te Aroha.

Vice-President: Mr. J. Rentoul, Cheviot.

Executive: Messrs. A. C. Askew (Manakau), R. J. H. Nicholas (Hawera), W. F. Barker (Peel Forest), W. B. Bray (Banks Peninsula).

Secretary: Mr. R. W. Brickell, Dunedin.

A large membership will give the Executive increased funds with which to develop the local and foreign markets and push the export trade. Increased demand will raise the value of your honey crop.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 13 DUNEDIN. 3/6 PER ANNUM.

OUR SECOND YEAR.

It is with a good deal of pride that we commence with this issue our second year of publication. When the Beekeepers' Conference in June, 1914, decided that the National Beekeepers' Association should commence the issue of a Journal, fears were expressed that we should not get such support as would enable a Journal to be run successfully. Fortunately, these fears have proved groundless, as our continued publication shows. Twelve months later, at the Conference just concluded, those present expressed their unanimous appreciation of the Journal and its work, and it was generally agreed that the Journal is an absolute necessity in the interests of the beekeeping industry. Never before has there been such a widespread movement towards the better marketing of all classes of produce, including honey, and never before has special knowledge been so necessary as it is at this time, and this or some other similar Journal is the only means by which beekeepers from all parts of the Dominion may keep in touch one with another. Reference to the balance sheet, published in last issue, shows that we overcame all the initial expenditure, and finished our first year with only a small debit balance. Our subscription list is not quite large enough to make the Journal self-supporting, but as time goes on the list will increase. In order to make the Journal of greater service and to accomplish bigger things, we must have the co-operation of every producer of honey, and we therefore appeal to every subscriber who values the Journal to induce at least one beekeeping friend to subscribe. We are therefore sending two copies of this issue to each subscriber, in the hope that all will do their share towards an increased subscription list by addressing the spare copy to a friend and dropping him a post-card.

FIRST REPORT FROM OUR AGENTS.

The report published on page 229 of this issue from the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association will be read with more than ordinary interest by every producer in the Dominion, for it shows that we have been fortunate in securing the co-operation of such an up-to-date and progressive organisation for the marketing of our produce in Great Britain. Just think of it! One firm, with fourteen branches in a great town like Bristol, with 360,000 inhabitants, all purchasing New Zealand honey as such, and then think of the other large centres of population which we can reach through the same organisation—London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and scores of others. The consumption of honey in these towns will, under proper management, total hundreds and hundreds of tons per annum.

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

(Continued from last issue.)

THE ENGLISH MARKET.

An interesting discussion took place on the papers, and Mr. C. A. Jacobsen contended that the Government grading had been of benefit to producers, and carried a good deal of weight in England. They should aim, he held, to get their honey into the best possible appearance, otherwise it would never compete with honey on the English market. New Zealand honey had been put up in England and sold as English honey, proving that it was quite as good. They should aim to put it up as wanted by the English consumers, and then they might get the same price. English honey sold for £61 per ton, but they did not get that price for New Zealand honey.

The Chairman said that he was one of those in favour of the grading, and the more he saw of it the more he liked it.

Mr. KIRK IN REPLY.

Mr. T. W. Kirk, Government Apiaries Inspector, contended that the same arguments were being brought forward against honey grading as were brought against the grading of meat, butter, hemp, etc. Yet now you could not find an English meat buyer who did not demand a grading report. Mr. Kirk stated that grading of honey was now optional, but would not be so next season. He pointed out that many of the grading alterations were the result of recommendations made by the Conference last year, but when a new system started it was on its trial. They did not anticipate that they had struck a perfect system of honey grading, but they did contend that it was of advantage, and with the modifications that might be made after experience, it would be of even more value. As soon as experience showed the necessity for alteration he would do his best to have the alterations made. The Department was doing everything in its power to ensure uniformity in the grading. They did not intend to grade liquid honey, for advice had been received from Home not to ship this, owing to accidents which had occurred. If a tin broke it spoilt the appearance of the whole consignment.

EVENING SESSION.

In the evening delegates took part in a general discussion on the subject of the improvement of the flora to provide higher qualities of honey, in the course of which Mr. J. Rentoul suggested that if members could get on to the local Domain Boards they could get a lot of things planted that would suit them. A member suggested that a top-dressing of basic slag would greatly improve the growth of white clover, and the Chairman instanced the case of the Edendale Estate. Since the Government cut it up, he said, and the settlers began using lime, there had been a great improvement in the soil, and it showed that it was possible to improve a district by hundreds of tons.

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, Government Grader, supported Mr. Rentoul in the suggestion that eucalyptus might be grown to get over the break between the going out of the willow and the coming in of the clover. He held that a combination of eucalyptus and white clover made some of the finest honey obtainable. Tree lucerne was another good honey-producing plant.

Mr. W. E. Barker contributed a paper on "The Importance of the Honey Bee to the Fruit-growing Industry," as follows:—

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HONEY BEE TO THE FRUIT-GROWING INDUSTRY.

I have been asked to lead the discussion on this subject, a subject on which perhaps I am qualified to speak, as it was the utility of the bee to the fruit-growing industry that first led me to study its economy and launch out as a honey producer.

From time immemorial the bee has been studied and cared for owing to its lavish production of honey. Then when sugar was discovered, the utility of the bee somewhat waned, and honey became a luxury and the study of the bee a pastime, till our naturalists discovered the balance of Nature, whereby bees in robbing the nectar from the flowers carried pollen from other blossoms, so producing cross-fertilisation, so necessary for the stamina of species, since when bees have been more assiduously looked after, and by the invention of the movable frame their culture has been developed into an industry of considerable dimensions, and it is now no uncommon thing for large orchardists to court the apiarist to place his or her apiary in conjunction with their orchards in order to ensure a good set of fruit.

But man's thoughts, unfortunately, are too much like a pendulum—the huns of to-day become the friends of the morrow, and vice versa. 'Tis the shallow thinkers of the world who do the harm, and so we find that in their eyes this very virtue of the bee becomes its vice, and we hear fruit-growers accusing them of being the cause of the dreaded "fire blight" of pears, and I would not be surprised if the genius is not born already who attributes to them the spread of the mysterious "silver blight" also. Well, it may be so, to a small extent, just as they do undoubtedly carry the spares of foulbrood and pollen grains; but no more than the man who pruneth the trees, and less than the wind that bloweth the bee. These spasmodic thinkers are a nuisance. One goes along and happens to see a bee sipping the nectar from a suptured grape or an over-ripe plum; he meets a fool reporter, and we awake at our breakfast-table to read in big head-lines, "Bees Destroying the Fruit Industry—Taking a Liking to Fruit—Seen Tearing off the Skin of the Apple to Feast on the Luscious Pips Within," etc., etc. It has been said in defence of such absurdities that the bee cannot bite, but that is not quite true, as years ago I observed and made a drawing of bees knawing holes at the base of the foxglove (Digitalis) to get at the sweet, waxy exudation that covers the ovary. But fortunately their intelligence has never yet come to deliberately biting through the skin of the grape or ripping off the epidermis of the apple.

A more serious accusation, however, the bee and his master brings against the orchardist, and that is his use of poisonous sprays, and here again I am inclined to accuse the spasmodic thinker. That bees have been killed by spraying I do not deny, but I would like to point out that we do not as a rule spray poisons till the blossoms have fallen and a good leaf surface is exposed, and more often than not the so-called poisoned bees are the result of starvation, bee paralysis, or other diseases. No, taking it altogether, the importance of the honey bee to the fruit-growing industry is hard to over-estimate, and when we consider the uncertainty of our climate and the necessity of a quick setting of our fruit, the cry of every orchardist who wishes to be sure of his income should be the slogan, "MORE BEES."

Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, Government honey grader, said that in his wanderings about the country he called upon a good number of fruit-growers, and he thought that in the majority of cases they kept bees. "I think," continued Mr. Jacobsen, "that that is a good proof that bees are of great value to their industry. I suppose 75 per cent. of the fruit-growers have beehives; some certainly have only one or two hives, but in the majority of cases they have up to twenty. Those with only one or two hives understand nothing about bees, and have foul-brood. Nevertheless they understand the value of them, and are only too pleased to welcome a beekeeper, so that the bees can assist in the pollenation of the fruit."

The Secretary (Mr. R. W. Brickell) instanced the fact that a Government fruit inspector had told him that one of the largest growers in the Roxburgh district had a large cherry orchard, where he got magnificent blooms but could get no fruit. The owner decided to cut the trees out because he could get no fruit. The Agricultural Department sent a man to watch the trees through the whole season, and he decided that the trouble was that there were no bees there. They had them there by a motor car in a short time, and now the place was one of the most profitable farms. They found it out right in the middle of the season, and were able to save half the crop by getting the bees there at once.

Mr. Barker pointed out that some apples could fertilise themselves. Some pears were also able to fertilise themselves, but others were better by being fertilised by insects. Some growers planted these species in alternate rows, so as to make it easier for cross-fertilisation to take place. In the same way some apples could fertilise themselves in one climate but not in another. In any climate there was no doubt that bees were a great assistance to fruit-growers, especially where it was a matter of quick fertilisation.

Regarding the poisoning of bees, Mr. Barker pointed out that two kinds of poisonous spray were used—namely, arsenate of lead and arsenate of zinc, and apparently from experiments made arsenate of zinc did not affect the bees' economy. The difficulty could, therefore, be got over by using arsenate of zinc for a spray.

The session concluded by a general discussion on apiary management and instructions to beginners and small apiarists.

THIRD DAY.

The session opened with a discussion on "How Could Members Assist the Apiary Department Instructors in Checking the Spread of Foul-brood?"

Mr. J. Rentoul led the discussion, and said that he was of the opinion that most of the trouble through foul-brood was due to the negligent beekeeper of one or two hives. It was absolutely necessary that the culpably negligent should be prosecuted, for only by stringent measures were they going to cope with the difficulty. The position should be, he contended, that when a man got a colony of bees he should realise that he had to keep them so that they would not be a detriment to the neighbourhood. If he did not the Department should take action to compel him.

The Chairman thought that the time of warning was now passed, and the Department should enforce the laws against the outlawed box-hive and the offending beekeeper.

Mr. Maddox, who has had experience of beekeeping in America, said that there local inspectors were employed, and paid by the county. In California the disease was quite under control.

Mr. T. W. Kirk pointed out that a direct tax was made there on the beekeepers. If the beekeepers here wanted a direct tax he was sure the Minister woud meet them, but the desire was to keep direct taxation off the industry. He pointed out that the Department had a very uphill game, for they only had four inspectors at the present moment. To that fact was due most of the matters complained of. He had applied for two additional instructors, but he did not think they could be supplied at present owing to the war. He asked for the active co-operation of the beekeepers themselves in connection with the inspection work, and indicated that after next spring action would be taken against offending box-hive beekeepers.

Mr. C. J. Clayton read the following paper entitled

A SHORT CUT IN THE TREATMENT OF FOUL-BROOD.

There is an old saying that the man who succeeds in making two blades of grass grow where only one grew before is a public benefactor. The same might rightly be said of the one who advances one step to facilitate the stamping out of the dread disease foul-brood.

Without discussing the merits and demerits of the various methods that have been given to beekeepers, perhaps it is quite safe to say that the McEvoy treatment is the most acceptable. Even this has its drawbacks, inasmuch as there is always the risk of the bees absconding. Another objection is having to treat them in the evening when all the bees are at home, which adds to the unpleasantness of work, and invariably leads to the bees making for the neighbouring hives, or the first pair of trousers they come to.

By the method I have adopted, I think I have done away with these disadvantages, and the whole operation can be completed in the middle of the day when the bees are flying.

After I have everything ready, I can successfully heat ten or twelve hives in one hour. Briefly my method is as

follows:—Procure as many clean hives, bottom boards and covers, corresponding to the number you wish to treat. Into these place nine frames of wired foundation and one division board feeder filled with medicated syrup. See that the hives bottom board and cover correspond, as near as possible to those you are about to treat. This more particularly applies to the alighting board. You are now ready to commence operations. No smoke at this juncture, but go about your work as quietly as possible. Now, remove your old hive and bottom board to the rear about one foot. Immediately place the new one on the old stand without any covering. Now quietly stand your old hive on the top of one. Remove cover and quilt and draw over the top of frames a carbolic cloth, covering this closely with a sack, placing the old cover on the top loosely. This can now be left for about ten or fifteen minutes. If you desire to treat a number at one time, a second cloth will be necessary, and you can fix up a second hive while the bees of the first one are going down on to the foundation.

Now return to your first hive, without smoker going, and a Coggeshall brush, which should be sprinkled with carbolic. Remove the cover and sacking, turn your carbolic cloth back, exposing about one frame or dummy, if you use one. Now draw your frames over, one by one, towards you, and inject your brush between same, and what few bees there may be hanging about the frame will soon descend below without taking any of the diseased honey with them. Always remember to keep your frames covered as much as possible with the carbolic cloth. Now remove the old hive with the frames and all pertaining thereto to the honey house, and the job is done.

The bees apparently take little or no notice of the change. If there is any healthy brood, you may disposed of the same as you think fit after you have finished the job. Anyhow, it will take no harm for a considerable time if the honey house is warm.

I have treated all the seasons of the year, and have never had a failure. If treated during the honey flow, the bees will march on without any attention whatever. In a day or two remove quilts placed on queen excluder, and give half supers of drawn combs. Honey will immediately go into the super. I have tried many this way, and have taken off three and four half supers of honey. If the honey flow has ceased, it requires a little different treatment.

You can proceed in exactly the same way up to the point of getting the bees settled in the new hive. Fill your feeder again the second day. On the third day remove the foundation not covered by the bees, and feed up as rapidly as possible, packing down warmly. In a short time the frames will be drawn out and capped over.

Since writing these notes I have examined twenty or thirty colonies so treated, and, without exception, every one was clean.

Considerable discussion took place at the conclusion of this paper, opinion being sharply divided on the efficiency or otherwise of the methods advocated.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Clayton.

Mr. T. W. Kirk read, on behalf of Mr. D. C. Aston, F.I.C., F.C.S., a paper entitled "The Food Values of Honey." This paper will be published next month.

EXTENSION WORK.

The report of the Extension Committee, as follows, was adopted:—

"Your Committee have the honour to report that, having carefully considered the question of increasing the National membership, they suggest:—(1) That the Executive and present members take every opportunity for a personal canvass of beekeepers; (2) that the Executive appoint an organiser if at all practicable; (3) that a circular be drawn up for distribution by district secretaries and others, the circular to set forth the advantages of co-operation and the work the National can and is doing; (4) that a year's free subscription be given as a bonus to any member who secures two additional members to the Association."

The following resolutions were carried:—

"That a deputation bring under the notice of the Prime Minister the work that the Association has done in helping the honey industry; that it has decided to become a properly constituted and registered Society; that it is hampered in its work by lack of funds, and therefore seeks assistance."

"That this Conference urge upon the Government the urgent necessity of the appointment of two more apiary instructors in order to cope with the foul-brood menace."

"That it be an instruction to the incoming Executive to communicate to all Agricultural and Pastoral Societies with a view to the adoption by them of a standard schedule for honey exhibits, and that a model schedule be submitted to them on something like these lines:—6lb. liquid honey in commercial jars or tins; 6lb. granulated honey in similar packages; 1 case of honey ready for export; 6lb. beeswax as it comes from mould; two bottles honey vinegar in white bottles; one full-size Hoffmann frame of extracting honey; a half size ditto; the whole to be the products of exhibitors."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. J. S. Cotterell (Te Aroha); Vice-President, Mr. J. Rentoul (Cheviot); Executive—Messrs. A. C. Askew (Manakau), R. J. H. Nicholas (Hawera) (for the North Island), and W. E. Barker (Peel Forest) and W. B. Gray (Banks Peninsula) (for the South Island); Auditor, Mr. F. C. Baines.

The retiring Secretary (Mr. R. W. Brickell) was unable to stand again. Members spoke in appreciation of his past services, and a vote of thanks was put on record for his valuable services. A vote of thanks was also passed to the outgoing President (Mr. Jas. Allan).

Votes of thanks to the Department of Agriculture and the Press concluded a most enjoyable gathering.

SIZE OF HIVES: A NOVEL SUGGESTION.

In response to a paragraph in this month's Journal, I am sending you an article in re small v. large hives.

The question is often asked, Does the size of the hive make any difference to the prolificness of the queen. To my mind it undoubtedly does, for when a queen sees all the cells in a large hive to be filled with brood or honey, I believe she makes up her mind to do her share, and gets a move on.

Mr. C. P. Dadant, writing in "Gleanings" as far back as 1898, says: With large hives we found queens that had a capacity of 4,500 eggs per day. Exceptions, you will say. No doubt; but is it not a good practice to give those exceptions a show, and give them all the room they want? Another consideration in the use of large hives is the prevention to a very large extent of swarming, as it is a well-known fact that if there is plenty of room in the hive there is less tendency to swarm. With some beekeepers this is a matter of small importance, as they either wish to increase the number of their colonies or they have a sale for their swarms. I want you to understand that I have not said that you will have no swarms with large hives, but if you want to prevent swarming to the greatest possible extent large hives will help you. To my mind it would be a good thing if we could do away with natural swarms altogether. Someone will then say, But how are we going to increase the number of our colonies? The answer would be, resort to artificial means, which is much more satisfactory, as we could then breed from our best queens. There are quite a number of ways by which we can get swarms artificially, but that matter is outside of this article.

The next thing to be considered is the size of the hive which would give the best result. I would use a 10-frame hive, but increase the depth of the frames. To my mind the Langstroth frame is the wrong shape for a brood frame. It is a well-known fact that a queen starts to lay in the middle of the cluster in the warmest part of the hive. She then keeps circling round till she comes to the edge of the comb—that is. the bottom edge. As the Langstroth frames are oblong, she must then lose a great deal of time in going over the cells she has already laid in to find empty cells near the ends of the frame. Now, if we had a frame the same length as the one in use, but two or three inches deeper, we would have a frame nearly square. If you open up a hive when the bees are breeding you will see how regular the patch of brood is as long as it is round, but how irregular it is towards the end of the combs. I believe if we adopted a frame nearly square for our brood nest we would get better results from the greater amount of space, and the greater ease the queen would have in finding empty cells, as she would have a greater circumference to travel round.

Another great advantage the deep frame has is that it keeps the bees in a more compact cluster, therefore warmer, as a square nest is easier kept warm than one of oblong shape. The square frame also gives greater facility to the bees to reach the stores in the winter, as a bee will crawl up when it will not go sideways. With a deeper frame as much honey and as many bees can be stored in six or seven frames as in ten

frames of the size now in use; we would then have a hive equal to about twelve to fourteen frames of the size now in use. While using a deeper frame for the brood nest, I would still use ordinary oblong frames for supers, as the shape of the hive would not be affected by the change, only the brood nest would be a little deeper, and the same bottom boards, roof, supers, etc., would still be in use, so that the expense in effecting a change would be trifling. On the other hand, if while using an eight or ten-frame hive we wish to adopt a 12-frame hive, the expense would be very much greater, as all the hive bodies, supers, etc., would have to be discarded and new ones bought.

Mosgiel. W. ROBERTSON.

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division has received from the apiary instructors the following reports concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—There is little further to report since last month. The local market is quiet; beekeepers in this district have now either placed their honey locally or sent it forward for export. There is now about twelve tons awaiting shipment.—G. V. Westbrooke. July 6th, 1915.

Wellington.—Several fresh consignments of honey have been graded for shipment since last month, and fresh lots are still coming forward. The wholesale selling conditions of our produce is improving, due, no doubt, to the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association. A line of 2 lb. tins was recently disposed of for 10/9 per dozen.—F. A. Jacobsen. July 7th, 1915.

Christchurch.—The trade for bulk honey is steady, while sections are scarce. There are, however, early prospects of a slight advance in prices over last month's. A consignment of twenty-six cases of honey for export had been shipped early in the month, and a line of twenty-six cases graded ready for shipment at the end of the month, and will be forwarded by the first available boat.—L. Bowman. June 30th, 1915.

Dunedin.—A few small lines of honey have come forward during the month, and have met a good market. There is a steady advance for prime lots in small packages. Some bulk honey from the north is badly tinned and packed, and consequently arrives in bad condition. Pat honey is scarce. Sections: None offering. All-round demand for consignments of prime grade quality.—E. A. Earp. 2nd July, 1915.

At the Conference the experience of beekeepers was divided on the question of the advisability of the use of queen excluders, the general opinion being, however, that the queen will not go up into the supers if there is sufficient room in the brood chamber.

FEEDING SUGAR CRYSTALS.

From experience I have found that feeding hot syrup to provide bees with winter stores is by no means satisfactory. If it is desired to increase the weight of stores in this manner sufficient to carry a colony over to the spring, then systematic feeding of warm syrup should commence before the early frosts set in. For the past six years I have adopted a method of feeding colonies with crystal sugar damped with water. My method is to fill a division board feeder with sugar, and place it in the hive near the cluster. The sugar is damped on the surface with warm water, and this operation of moistening the sugar is repeated about every fortnight. The bees take the food down quietly, and it does not produce a stimulative effect. It saves labour in constant feeding, because a feeder full of sugar will keep a colony alive for weeks. The bees have food handy, and since adopting the method I have not lost a single stock by starvation, and I have never yet found it induced robbing. Moistened sugar is the best substitute for sealed honey, as it provides a food in a condensed form, and the bees attach it in much the same way that they would their natural stores.

MELISSA.

SWARMING.

On page 209 the following advice is found:—"Just before a swarm is about to issue take out a frame of brood, and the swarming tendency will be checked." I fancy the Editor put this in to make some of the old hands "bite," as such a method will never stop swarming. When I find a colony is going to swarm in spite of its having plenty of super room, I deal with it in another way—the principal thing being the removal of the queen. I place such a colony on a hand bottom board (why don't we call the bottom board a "floor"?), which will allow two hives to stand on it side by side. It has an entrance on every side, the front and back ones being fitted with switches, which will turn the bees to one hive or the other.

For a start, the hive is placed on one side of the board, with the switch fixed to give the bees an entrance to it. I place another hive with empty combs ready on the other half of the floor. In a day or two the bees will be used to the changed appearance. Then before the cells are capped, or as soon after as possible, I choose the middle of a fine morning to hunt the queen up and put her into the hive alongside, together with the frame of brood she is on, which is replaced with an empty comb. I cut out all the queen cells except the best one in the old hive, open a new entrance at the back, and close the switch in front, so that the flying bees join the queen in the empty hive.

The above method does the swarming for the bees without any risk of loss, and the honey crop from that hive is bigger by at least half. If the increase is not wanted, the old queen can be killed at the end of the season and the two hives joined. If it is wanted, she had better be replaced with a young queen. If the bees of such hives are not a desirable strain to keep, it

is better when cutting out the cells to take them all out, and put in a cell from the breeding queen.

The beginner must not suppose that the fact of queen cells being built is always a sign of swarming. If he never attends to re-queening himself, the bees will, and in that case the cells are more often being built for the purpose of superseding an old queen. If he is one of those who tries to prevent swarming by cutting out queen cells every week, he will have a good number of queenless colonies in a season, as he will frequently prevent the bees from re-queening the hive in the natural way. Even when the bees are intending to supersede a failing queen they will build a number of cells, but eventually they pull the surplus down. It is a good opportunity to improve the stock by giving a queen cell from the breeding stock to a colony bent on superseding. Probably the person who gave the advice at the beginning of this article was dealing with a superseding colony, not one bent on swarming.

The advice given in regard to rearing queens from those hives which want to swarm early is misleading, unless a swarming strain of bees is wanted. It may not be desirable to breed from such a hive, but it is a good plan to use it for finishing cells from the breeding queen. Get the cells started in a queenless hive, using a frame containing hatching eggs from the breeding queen, then cut out the cells in the colony wanting to swarm, and put these started cells in to be finished.

C. A. JACOBSEN.

Little River.

MEETINGS.

A special general meeting of the shareholders of the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., was held in the Esperanto Hall, Wellington, on June 3rd. The meeting was convened for the special purpose of considering a number of new articles which it was proposed to add to the Company's Articles of Association, made necessary by the Company having extended the scope of its operations to embrace the whole Dominion. There was a large number of shareholders present from all parts of the Dominion, and quite a number were represented by proxy. The whole of the new articles were unanimously adopted. They provide for the annual election of the directors; for the appointment of a representative directorate. This is effected by the division of the Dominion into seven honey districts, each district having the right to representation on the directorate; for the election of the director by the shareholders he is to represent; for the establishment of bottling depots as the growing needs of the Company may require; for the consolidation of the Company's business by furnishing the directors with power to forfeit the shares of any shareholder who directly or indirectly injuriously competes with the Company in the sale or disposal of honey; for the increase of the capital of the Company by the creation of one thousand five hundred (1,500) new shares of £2 each. At another meeting of the shareholders, held in the

Liedertafel Hall, Hawera, on 26th June, the new articles were unanimously confirmed, and are, therefore, now part and parcel of the Company's Articles of Association.

The Canterbury Beekeepers' Association held their eighth annual meeting on July 6th in the Trades Hall, Mr. E. G. Ward (President) in the chair. Mr. R. W. Brickell wrote suggesting that the Association alter the ending of its financial year to correspond with that of the National Association, also asking for a contribution to the funds of the National. It was resolved that both matters be considered at next quarterly meeting. It was resolved to hold special meetings at intervals during the winter months for the discussion of matters relating to bee culture only, the first to be held on the first Tuesday in August. The annual report and balance sheet were adopted. The membership has slightly decreased, probably on account of such a discouraging season, but the financial position is satisfactory. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. E. G. Ward; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. R. N. Gidley, C. A. Jacobsen, A. Johnston, W. J. Mulholland, and W .W. Yeoman; secretary, Miss Mackay; treasurer, Mr. R. N. Gidley; librarian, Miss Hayton; auditor, Mr. W. W. Yeoman; reporter, Mr. E. G. Ward; Committee—Miss Wilson Jones, Messrs. A. Ireland, and H. Johnston. One new member was elected. A vote of thanks to the executive officers for their past services was carried by acclamation.

NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.

The Secretary of the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association reports having received the following advice from the Bristol and Dominions' Association:—"With regard to honey that was sent to Henry Lane and Co., we received advice from Bristol just recently stating they had taken delivery of all the honey Lane's had, and had paid over to Lane's the advances made by them, plus charges, &c. The details of these are not available, but will be shown on the account sales when the honey is sold. We are writing to Bristol on the matter by the next mail, and will get them to cable as per your request."

At Lawrence on Tuesday Mr. E. A. Earp, inspector of apiaries, brought a charge under "The Apiaries Act, 1908," against William Wurr for selling on March 16th to Mr. D. Murray, of Blue Spur, bees and apiary appliance known by him to be infected with disease. Defendant pleaded guilty, and said he was not aware that there was an Act bearing on the selling of bees. The inspector stated that this was the first case brought in Otago under section 8, subsection b, of the Act, and he wished the prosecution to act as a lesson to other beekeepers in this Province, where this sort of offence was about to be vigorously suppressed. A fine of 10s., with court costs (7s.) was imposed.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM HEAD OFFICE OF THE BRISTOL AND DOMINIONS PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION.

Honey.—I am pleased to inform you that, although owing to delay in obtaining the necessary machinery for closing up the Mono vessels that we have been compelled to use for the distribution of the honey owing to the shortage of glass, we have been successful in getting the largest retail establishment in Bristol, with fourteen branches, to take the honey up and make window displays. We will forward photographs of the shops immediately the windows are arranged. The proprietor of this establishment is a keen Imperialist, and recognises that this is an opportune moment to display goods that are produced in the Dominions. He is at present selling New Zealand butter, wrapped in papers showing that it is from New Zealand, and he is keen to get as many varieties of produce as possible to display. In the course of conversation he said:—"I do not intend to take up any lines where you cannot assure me of continuity of supply."

I sincerely wish your friends in New Zealand to realise the importance of this question, and make up their minds to let us have a continuity of supply.

COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT APPEARING IN THE BRISTOL PAPERS.

NEW ZEALAND AND THE WAR.

Everyone is talking about the gallant stand the New Zealand soldiers made for England and the Empire at the Dardanelles.

Have YOU done anything for New Zealand in return?

If not, commence at once by purchasing a jar of New Zealand honey.

New Zealand honey has the most delicate aroma and flavour of any the world produces.

New Zealand honey, "N.Z.H.P.A." brand, is guaranteed by the New Zealand Government to be the absolute pure product of the bee.

New Zealand honey is produced by the kinsmen of those gallant men who are fighting for England's cause in Europe.

Two factors—carefulness and carelessness—make up the greater part of the profit or loss in beekeeping.

Study your business and the demands of your locality.

Success in beekeeping, as in any other business, demands that much attention be given to details.

Equalising brood or stores in foul-brood localities invites the spread of disease.

Never attempt to handle bees at any time without thorough protection. Disregarding this rule has discouraged more beekeepers than poor crops ever did.

BEES IN WAR.

We read in a daily paper the other day that a handful of Belgians who had barricaded themselves on a bee-farm were attacked by a whole regiment of German infantry. The defenders allowed the Germans to approach within a few yards of the barricades, and then hurled the bee-hives at them. The maddened insects proved themselves valuable allies, for in less than a quarter of an hour they had driven the Germans back, who fled panic stricken.

That this is not the first time bees have been employed in war, the following cutting from the Cheltenham Chronicle shows; while all who have read ancient history will be aware of how important honey and wax were in those days by the fact that a certain amount of these commodities were almost invariably exacted by the victors as tribute from the conquered provinces.

A remarkable English manuscript preserved at Oxford actually pictures the military engines used for slinging bee-hives. And when Acre was being besieged, the Christians did but little good until the Bishop of Puy (in Germany) caused all the bee-hives—of his own Low German home at Namur and its neighbourhood—to be collected and sent to the "front," as well as the wasps and bees that at the brewing season were wont to swarm into the vessels in which the sweet savoured beer of the Middle Ages was brewed. "All around us," urged the bishop, "there is an abundance of bee-hives. Let us hurl them from our engines over the city walls. So shall we keep the Saracens off while we undermine their fortress." Twenty-five mangonels then commenced slinging their hives at the same moment. "The bees," we are told, "went swarming into the enemies' ears, stinging them on the eyes, and torturing them until they fled. The Christians broke through the walls, and in this manner was taken and captured the noble city of Acre. Thus by bees it was taken and subdued."

COOKIES.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The following recipe for honey cakes must be good, if the way they disappear is any indication:—Two cups of honey, one half-half cup of sugar, one-half cup shortening, two-thirds of a cup of small seedless raisins, even teaspoonful soda dissolved in quarter-cup warm water, half teaspoonful ginger, half teaspoonful nutmeg, little salt, flour to mix in stiff batter. Drop small spoonfuls on buttered tins; bake in quick oven. Good cooky for winter, when eggs are 2/- a dozen.

A correspondent says:—"If beekeepers would use cell-cups and cell-cages, and select the queens with bright crescents, they would cut down their black drones one-half. A queen with a dark crescent will produce two-thirds black drones." There is much to be gained by this policy of selection.

The Beekeepers' Exchange.

FOR SALE. | WANTED. | TO EXCHANGE.

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